

Here to Stay in the USA and Living with Strangers in the USA

Comparative Review by Blanca Nielson,
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HERE TO STAY IN THE USA: ESL/US STUDIES FOR BEGINNERS. T. Maciel and J. Duffy. Hayward, CA: Alemany Press, 1990. pp. 144. Paper \$5.95.

LIVING WITH STRANGERS IN THE USA: COMMUNICATING BEYOND CULTURE. C. Archer. New Jersey: Prentice Hall Regents, 1991. pp. ix + 156. Paper \$12.50.

Both *Here to Stay* and *Living with Strangers* are intended to help students or immigrants to the U.S.A. feel comfortable in their daily activities and associations as they learn English. *Here to Stay* is a textbook for beginning level adults seeking U.S. residency or citizenship. This text stresses understanding and adapting to the American lifestyle without giving up one's own language and culture.

On the other hand, *Living with Strangers* is clearly intended for high school or college students associating with students from other countries on a daily basis. In our multicultural society it is important for both American and foreign students to gain a greater awareness of self and others as a basis for problem solving in the twenty-first century.

Both of these texts may be used in a semester. The workbook-type format of *Here to Stay* is self-explanatory. The large amount of pictures on every page provides a simple structure which the beginning

ESL student may use to stimulate conversation in a class. It's broken into eleven units which discuss different situations immigrants or visitors to the U.S. might find themselves in. The authors integrate vocabulary, grammar, reading-writing, listening-speaking, and culture into each unit.

In contrast, *Living with Strangers* is a textbook to improve reading skills and to develop vocabulary. After personal study, students may enjoy discussing what they have read in the classroom, especially if, as suggested, the class includes community involvement projects for practicing cross-cultural skills.

Living with Strangers also has eleven chapters, each focused on a different type of individual and cross-cultural experience. This text is primarily interested in building reading skills and intercultural sensitivity through the use of discussion questions, culture questions, and vocabulary-building exercises.

In short, *Here to Stay in the USA* is an excellent tool for beginning students, while *Living with Strangers in the USA* enhances an already proficient student's language skill and sensitivity through issues of cultural awareness.

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